

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS


By the present amendment, independent claims 15 and 16 have been amended to correct an inadvertent typographical omission and claim 17 has been cancelled without prejudice.

An early action on the merits is respectfully requested.

If any additional fees are required in connection with this case, it is respectfully requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 18, 2006

I, Karen M. Gill, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" on December 18, 2006.

